

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 06954 231350Z

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DHA-05 SCA-01 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02  
H-01 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15 L-03 IO-13 INSE-00 /086 W  
-----016993 231926Z /45

R 231300Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3365

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 6954

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: APPROACH TO BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT

REF: STATE 190638

1. ON AUGUST 17, CHARGE AND EMBOFF CALLED ON MINISTER AZAMBUJA, CHIEF OF FOREIGN MINISTRY UNITED NATIONS DIVISION, TO REQUEST PER INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL THAT BRAZIL, AS A COUNTRY OF TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION, CONSIDER FAVORABLY MAKING AN OFFER TO ACCEPT INDOCHINESE REFUGEES FOR RESETTLEMENT. WHILE NOTING BRAZILIAN PRACTICE UP TO THIS TIME, CHARGE POINTED OUT INCREASING SEVERTITY OF REFUGEE PROBLEM AND GREAT CONCERN OF UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES. CHARGE ALSO INFORMED MINISTER AZAMBUJA OF RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS SET UP BY OTHER COUNTRIES OF TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION AND STATED THAT EVEN A MODEST BRAZILIAN QUOTA WOULD HAVE IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL VALUE AS WELL AS ASSISTING PLANNING BY UNHRC.

2. AZAMBUJA STATED THAT HE RECOGNIZED VALUE OF A BRAZILIAN OFFER AND SAID THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY SUPPORT CREATION OF A RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM IN INTER-MINISTRY DISCUSSIONS. HE CONCEDED GOB HAD AN OBLIGATION TO REEXAMINE THIS PROBLEM. HE INDICATED THAT OFFICIAL GOB RESPONSE WOULD NOT COME BEFORE AUGUST 24 AND ADDED THAT  
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IF A PAROLE OR RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM WERE NOT POSSIBLE, THE BOG MIGHT PROVIDE SOME MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE UNHRC AS A GESTURE OF GOODWILL. A CHARGE WAS LEAVING, AZAMBUJA SPECULATED, ON A PERSONAL BASIS, THAT PERHAPS A PROGRAM INVOLVING "A FEW HUNDRED" INDOCHINESE REFUGEES COULD BE WORKED OUT.

3. EARLIER IN CONVERSATION, AZAMBUJA INDICATED THAT HE AND GOB

WERE AWARE THAT MANY INDOCHINESE REFUGEES  
ARE POTENTIALLY DESIRABLE  
IMMIGRANTS, BUT THAT GOB WOULD HAVE TO DRAMATIZE THEIR PLIGHT  
IN ORDER TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE FOR SUCH A PROGRAM DOMESTICALLY. HE SAID,  
HOWEVER, THAT BRAZIL HAS NOT ENCOURAGED IMMIGRATION, EXCEPT IN THE  
CASE OF PERSONS WITH SPECIAL SKILLS, FOR MANY YEARS. AZAMBUJA NOTED,  
MOREOVER, JAPANESE AND BANGLADESH PRESSURE ON GOB TO ALLOW  
GREATER IMMIGRATION FROM THOSE WHO COUNTRIES AND REMINDED CHARGE  
OF PROBLEM BRAZIL CURRENTLY FACES WITH KOREANS ILLEGALLY ENTERING  
BRAZIL FROM PARAGUAY.  
AZAMBUJA THEN REPEATED THAT HE WOULD BE AN ADVOCATE OF A RESETTLE-  
MENT PROGRAM WHEN GOB OFFICIALS MEET TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION.

4. TALKING POINTS BASED ON REFTEL LEFT WITH AZAMBUJA.  
CRIMMINS

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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